



VETO OVERRIDE SUMMARY: HB1207

Background:

Once the Legislature passes a bill, the Governor may take one of three actions: allow the bill to become law without his or her signature, sign the bill into law, or veto the bill. If the Governor vetoes a bill, he or she sends the Legislature a message stating the reasons why the bill was vetoed. Article III, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution states that the Legislature may override a Governor's veto by a two thirds vote in each house.

What this bill does:

House Bill 1207 was originally passed by the Florida House on March 18, 2010, with a vote of 73-42. The bill includes two issues. First it reenacts and revises provisions of law related to electioneering communications and electioneering communications organizations. Secondly, it allows for the establishment of Affiliated Party Committees. Following the passage of House Bill 1207, Governor Charlie Crist vetoed the bill citing concerns with the creation of Affiliated Party Committees. The Legislature proceeded to include provisions addressing the issues surrounding electioneering communications and electioneering communications organizations in a separate bill – House Bill 131 – which was passed later that session and approved by Governor Crist. The provision creating Affiliated Party Committees was not included in House Bill 131.

House Bill 1207 provides that the creation of Affiliated Party Committees would be optional and the caucus leaders of both the majority and the minority parties in the House and Senate would be authorized to create them. The proposed model follows the national party structure where both parties have a main party committee (ex. Republican National Committee and the Democratic National Committee) as well as legislative committees (ex. National Republican Senatorial Committee and the National Republican Congressional Committee, Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee). The bill would mandate that Affiliated Party Committees be subject to the same requirements and regulations as political parties. The bill calls for maintaining the contribution limits for legislative and statewide political campaigns and the current gift ban which requires that any "in-kind" gift be for the direct benefit of the Affiliated Party Committee.

Veto:

Former Governor Charlie Crist vetoed House Bill 1207 on April 6, 2010, stating:

"While I commend the sponsors of this bill for their effort to bring more transparency and accountability in their attempt to revive leadership funds, I reject the notion that Affiliate Party Committees, or leadership funds will benefit our state."

Possible Veto Override:

On Friday, March 18, 2011, a motion to recommend the House override Governor Crist's veto of House Bill 1207 was passed favorably out of the House State Affairs Committee. The proposed override could now be considered for a vote by the full Florida House, if a motion is made during a Floor Session. House Bill 1207 still contains language regarding electioneering communications; however the inclusion of this language does not alter current statute enacted by the passage of House Bill 131 during the 2010 Legislative Session.

Proponents of House Bill 1207 support the proposed legislation stating the bill will add a layer of transparency in reporting requirements by allowing members of the public to see who is contributing money to State House and Senate political campaigns and how that money is being spent. Proponents stress that affiliated party committees would be required to file separate contribution and expenditure reports. Presently, contributions made to and expenditures incurred by political parties for House and Senate political campaigns are reported along with all other contributions and expenses of the political party.

Representative John Legg
Speaker pro tempore

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